CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A heating cooker, comprising:

a cabinet to define a cooking cavity therein;

a steaming vessel to contain food and water therein, the steaming vessel being laid on a bottom wall of the cooking cavity; and

a first heater provided at the bottom wall of the cooking cavity to heat the bottom wall of the cooking cavity on which the steaming vessel is laid.

2. The heating cooker according to claim 1, further comprising:

a vessel seat provided on the bottom wall of the cooking cavity, to support the steaming vessel thereon, the vessel seat being provided at the bottom wall of the cooking cavity by depressing the bottom wall of the cooking cavity to a predetermined depth, with the heater mounted to a lower surface of the bottom wall of the cooking cavity at a position to correspond to the vessel seat.

3. The heating cooker according to claim 1, wherein the steaming vessel comprises:

a lower vessel body closely laid on the bottom wall of the cooking cavity to contain the water therein;

a steaming plate seated in the lower vessel body to be held at an edge of the lower vessel body so that the steaming plate is spaced apart from a bottom of the lower vessel body, the steaming plate having a structure to allow steam to pass the steaming plate; and

a lid to close an open top of the lower vessel body.

4. The heating cooker according to claim 1, further comprising

a second heater provided in the cooking cavity to heat air in the cooking cavity.

5. The heating cooker according to claim 4, further comprising:

a hot air circulation unit to circulate the air in the cooking cavity.

6. The heating cooker according to claim 5, wherein the hot air circulation unit comprises:

a fan chamber formed by recessing a rear wall of the cooking cavity;

an air circulation fan installed in the fan chamber; and

a motor installed outside the cooking cavity to rotate the air circulation fan.

7. The heating cooker according to claim 6, further comprising:

a third heater installed in the fan chamber at a predetermined position around the air circulation fan to heat the air discharged from the air circulation fan.

8. The heating cooker according to claim 7, wherein the air circulation fan is a centrifugal fan in which air is drawn into through a central space of the air circulation fan, and is discharged to an outside of a circumference of the air circulation fan in radial directions.

9. The heating cooker according to claim 7, further comprising:

first and second heat-shielding pates mounted to an inner casing of the cabinet at a position outside the recessed rear wall of the cooking cavity to intercept heat transmitted from the third heater to an outside of the fan chamber.

10. The heating cooker according to claim 9, wherein the first and second heat-shielding plates are integrated into a single body with a thermal insulating space defined between the first and second heat-shielding plates.

11. The heating cooker according to claim 9, further comprising:

a drive motor installed outside of the first and second heat-shielding plates to rotate the air circulation fan;

a motor bracket mounted to an outer surface of the second heat-shielding plate to hold the drive motor; and

a cooling fan installed at a space defined between the inner casing and an outer casing at the back of the cabinet to cool the drive motor.

12. The heating cooker according to claim 8, further comprising:

a chamber cover mounted to an open front of the fan chamber to cover the air circulation fan and the third heater;

a plurality of air suction ports provided at a central area of the chamber cover; and

a plurality of air distribution ports provided along an outside edge of the chamber cover,

wherein,

hot air in the cooking cavity is drawn into the fan chamber through the air suction ports due to a suction force of the air circulation fan, and is distributed from the fan chamber into the cooking cavity through the air distribution ports of the chamber cover.

13. The heating cooker according to claim 3, further comprising:

a bank part provided along an edge of an open top of the lower vessel body.

14. The heating cooker according to claim 13, wherein the steaming plate has an edge flange along an edge thereof, so that the steaming plate is horizontally seated in the lower vessel body by the edge flange, which is seated on the bank part of the lower vessel body.

15. A heating cooker having a cabinet to define a cooking cavity therein, comprising:

a steaming vessel provided on a wall of the cooking cavity to contain food and water therein; and

a heater provided at the wall to heat the steaming vessel to produce hot steam from the water contained in the steaming vessel.